

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07792 031439Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 128

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, XH

SUBJECT: VATICAN CREATES NEW DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS

SUMMARY. VATICAN HAS CREATED TWO NEW POSITIONS IN COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF CHURCH (FOREIGN OFFICE). IN UNPRECEDENTED STEP, ARCHBISHOPS WITH PRIOR SERVICE AS CHIEFS OF MISSION WILL FILL BOTH POSTS, ONE OF WHICH INDICATES HEIGHTENED ATTENTION TO EASTERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

1. POPE PAUL JULY 16 NAMED ARCHBISHOP DOMENICO ENRICI, UNTIL NOW APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN GREAT BRITAIN, AS "DELEGATE FOR PONTIFICAL REPRESENTATION." ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 07792 031439Z

"THE DELEGATE WILL BE CHARGED WITH CLOSELY FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

OF VARIOUS REPRESENTATIONS OF HOLY SEE CONCERNING THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILES AND TO FAVOR THEIR RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL OFFICES. THIS WILL BE EFFECTED THROUGH TIMELY VISITS."

2. VATICAN ANNOUNCED AUGUST 1, THAT ARCHBISHOP LUIGI POGGI, PRESENTLY PAPAL NUNCIO IN PERU, WILL BE ASSIGNED TO COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITH TITLE OF "APOSTOLIC NUNCIO FOR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES." VATICAN COMMENTATORS IN ITALIAN PRESS ARE ALREADY DESCRIBING POGGI AS NEW "VATICAN KISSINGER". PRESS HINTS THAT HE WILL BE A ROVING AMBASSADOR WITH WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITIES, PROBABLY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON EASTERN EUROPE AND CSCE.

3. VATICAN HAS INFORMED US THAT ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, POGGI'S ASSIGNMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. IN THIS SENSE, HE WILL REPLACE MSGR. GIOVANNI CHELI, ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI'S PRINCIPAL COLLABORATOR ON EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, WHO IS BEING REASSIGNED AS VATICAN'S UN OBSERVER. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, IT WAS DECIDED TO REPLACE CHELI WITH AN OFFICER OF FULL NUNCIO RANK AS IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT ANYONE OF LOWER RANK COULD MAINTAIN TYPE OF CONTACTS WHICH HOLY SEE FEELS ESSENTIAL WITH COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, POGGI HAD EARLIER FILLED POSITION BEING VACATED BY CHELI.

4. VATICAN SOURCES ALSO TOLD US THAT ARCHBISHOP ENRICI WILL ACT AS VATICAN DIPLOMATIC INSPECTOR, CONCENTRATING MAINLY ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN CREATED IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM MANY NUNCIOS THROUGHOUT WORLD.

5. COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP POGGI SEEMS IDEAL REPLACEMENT FOR MSGR. CHELI WHO COULD NOT LOGICALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY AS VATICAN'S EASTERN EUROPEAN EXPERT. TO REPLACE CHELI WITH AN UNTRIED AND INEXPERIENCED NEW OFFICER WOULD HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN UNWISE, ESPECIALLY SINCE ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, DESPITE HIS GREAT INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE, CANNOT DEDICATE SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THIS AREA. CASAROLI AND POGGI ARE BOTH FROM PIACENZA, ITALY, AND PROBABLY FALL WITHIN SAME VATICAN "OLD BOY" GROUP; THEREFORE, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO WORK WELL TOGETHER. VATICAN RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE HAVE NOW REACHED A LEVEL AND FREQUENCY WHICH MAKE IT NECESSARY TO

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PAGE 03 ROME 07792 031439Z

HAVE A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICER CHARGED WITH CONDUCTING FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS. VOLPE

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